



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

14 AUGUST 2020

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Officials Announce Largest Cryptocurrency Seizure Connected to Terrorism

(U) Washington – Federal law enforcement officials said yesterday that they had conducted the “largest-ever seizure of cryptocurrency” connected to terrorism. Prosecutors unsealed three civil forfeiture complaints and a criminal complaint in federal court in Washington. The forfeiture complaints involve the Al-Qassam Brigades, better known as the military wing of Hamas, in addition to al-Qa’ida and ISIS. The US also indicted two Turkish nationals on charges of operating an unlicensed money transmitting business. Authorities have now seized millions of dollars across 300 cryptocurrency accounts, four websites and four Facebook pages connected to these groups.

SOURCE: 13 August 2020, [NBC News](#)

(U) District of Columbia – NSA, FBI Expose Russian Intelligence Hacking Tool

(U) Washington – The US National Security Agency (NSA) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have exposed a sophisticated Russian hacking tool, they said yesterday in a rare public report offering new insight on Russia's arsenal of digital weapons. The NSA and FBI said that Russia's Main Intelligence Directorate, known as the GRU, was using a hacking tool code named "Drovorub" to break into Linux-based computers. Linux is an operating system commonly used across computer server infrastructure. Thursday's highly technical, 45-page NSA/FBI report is the latest in a series of public call-outs by the US government aimed at Russian hacking operations ahead of the 2020 US presidential election. The agencies did not say what types of organizations had been compromised by Drovorub.

SOURCE: 13 August 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) Wisconsin – Man Pleads Guilty to Vandalizing Synagogue

(U) Milwaukee – A Wisconsin man has pleaded guilty to vandalizing a synagogue last year as part of a neo-Nazi plot, federal prosecutors said yesterday. Yousef Barasneh, 22, pleaded guilty Wednesday to a federal civil rights charge, US Attorney Matthew Krueger of the Eastern District of Wisconsin said. According to court documents, Barasneh was part of a neo-Nazi, white supremacist group known as “The Base.” Authorities said Barasneh took part in online group chats with other Base members in which they agreed to threaten and intimidate African Americans and Jewish Americans. Prosecutors said on 21 September 2019, Barasneh went to a Racine, Wisconsin, synagogue and spray-painted anti-Semitic words and phrases as well as a swastika and the symbol for “The Base” on the building.

SOURCE: 13 August 2020, [The Associated Press](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) India – Militants Kill Two Police Officers in Attack

(U) Srinagar – Militants attacked a police team in Kashmir today, killing two officers and wounding one despite tight security in the disputed Muslim-majority Kashmir region ahead of India's Independence Day. A group of militants opened fire on the police team that was on duty in the Nowgam area of Srinagar city, the chief of police in Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said. The attack comes days after the first anniversary of the revocation of Kashmir's constitutional autonomy, a reform the Indian government

said would promote the region's development by drawing it closer to the rest of the country.

SOURCE: 14 August 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) Lebanon – FBI Joining Beirut Explosion Investigation

(U) Beirut – The FBI will join Lebanese and other international investigators in the probe of the massive explosion at Beirut's port that killed more than 170 people, injured thousands and caused widespread destruction, a US diplomat said yesterday. Lebanese authorities had invited the FBI to take part, and it is one way that Washington can help the country deal with the effects of the disaster, said US Undersecretary for Political Affairs David Hale as he toured the Gemayezeh neighborhood, which was damaged by the 4 August blast. It is still not known what caused the fire responsible for igniting nearly 3,000-tons of ammonium nitrate that were stored for years in Beirut's port. But documents have emerged that show the country's top leadership and security officials were aware of the stockpile. French investigators are also taking part in the probe.

SOURCE: 13 August 2020, [The Associated Press](#)

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